



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 23 September 1968



50X1

23

THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
23 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Soviet Union -
Rumania

Satellite photography of mid-September shows that an army in the Odessa Military District, near the Rumanian border, has been mobilized. At least one of the army's three divisions has been brought to full combat strength and deployed to a training area near its home garrison. Signs of mobilization were also apparent at other places in the district.

50X1

2. Soviet Union

50X1

3. East Germany -
West Germany

The US Mission in Berlin expects that East Germany will soon start a new propaganda offensive against West Germany to try to counter wide-ranging East German dissatisfaction over the occupation of Czechoslovakia. In addition, the mission believes the odds are better than even that the East Germans will tighten their controls over West German traffic to Berlin and East Germany--paying special attention to devices most likely to divide West Germany from the allies.

50X1

4. Austria -
Eastern Europe

Austrian Foreign Minister Waldheim has told Ambassador MacArthur that he and his cabinet strongly disagree with certain "alarmist views of some of the Austrian military establishment" that Rumania, Yugoslavia, and Austria will probably be invaded by the Soviets in the next few weeks.

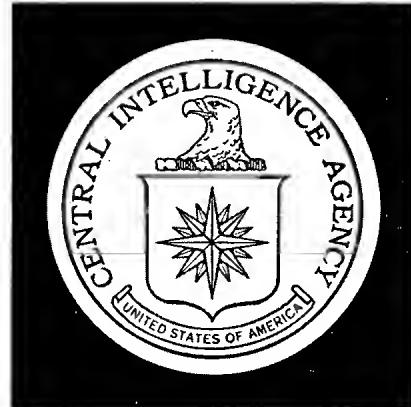
5. Mexico

Violence in Mexico City over the weekend was the most serious since the start of the student agitation two months ago. Some 1,500 people have been detained as a result of the bloody five-hour battle on Saturday.

The protest movement is now beginning to spread to other parts of the country; marches have already been planned for Monterrey and other cities. Security forces should be able to control the disturbances, but there is no sign that the students will be quieted before the Olympics begin on 12 October.

Top Secret

Top Secret



FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of US
Political Attitudes



Top Secret
16

50X1

23 September 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

23 September 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

50X1

* * *

Propaganda: Liberation Radio on 20 September accused the United States of "moving the peace conference toward a stalemate." The Communist commentary pointed to President Johnson's speech in New Orleans on 10 September as having "destroyed all the attractive and cunning hints made by himself and sly old Harriman in Paris" that the United States "is sincere in its search for peace" and that "it is willing to go further, and so forth."

Liberation Radio also attacked President Johnson's statement in New Orleans that the dispatch of American troops to South Vietnam was in the national interest of the United States. The broadcast charged that the President's statement "expressed the true, aggressive nature" of the US. It concluded by reaffirming the Communists' determination to "teach them (the US) more proper lessons."

50X1

A Commentator article in Nhan Dan has picked up the same theme, announcing that the US has brought the Paris talks to a "deadlock" by refusing to meet Hanoi's conditions. Broadcast in English on Hanoi's international service on 22 September, the article scorned as "but another version of the claim for reciprocity" the US representative's argument that the US will end its attacks on North Vietnam when the Vietnamese people give reason to believe that they will join with the US in de-escalating the fighting.

"If the US really wants peace," concluded Commentator, it must "leave Vietnam to the Vietnamese." "First and foremost," however, it must "unconditionally halt the bombing and other acts of war" so that the Paris talks "may get out of the deadlock."

* * *

50X1

[Redacted area]

* * *

II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Dick Gregory on the War: Hanoi's international service in English on Saturday quoted Dick Gregory to the effect that the US Government is doing "nothing whatsoever" to try to end the war in Vietnam. The report concerned a news conference it said Gregory held in Chicago on 11 September to discuss his recent meeting with North Vietnamese negotiators in Paris. According to the broadcast, Gregory "refuted the US allegations that there was some sign of progress at the conversations" and declared that "there will be no peace talks until the bombing ends."

Top Secret